-5-

Claims

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A circuit for testing a communication system that is subdivided into functional layers comprises a port that allows communication by a test apparatus directly with any layer that is higher than a first layer of the functional layers without the communication previously having to pass through the first layer.

Claim 2. (Original) The circuit arrangement according to claim 1 wherein the functional layers correspond to an OSI reference model.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the communication comprises data input into and/or data output from the port .

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement according to claim 3 wherein processing of the communication is realized on a single chip, with the port being provided on the chip.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The circuit arrangement according to claim 3 wherein processing of the communication is realized on a first chip and the port is on a second chip, the first and second chips being linked with each other for data transfer.

-6-

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A method for testing a switch for a telecommunication network that is subdivided into functional layers comprising the steps of:

providing the switch with a circuit arrangement having a port that allows communication by a test apparatus directly with any layer that is higher than a first layer of the functional layers without the communication previously having to pass through the first layer;

outputting response data from the port to the test apparatus; and

analyzing the response data by the test apparatus.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~7~~ 6 further comprising the step of inputting test data into the port before the outputting step.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The method according to one of claims ~~7 or 8~~ 6 or 7 wherein the test data comprise a stimulation signal.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~9~~ 8 wherein the response data comprise a response to the stimulation signal.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the response data comprise a monitoring signal.